



# Harvest4Knowledge Project

## Project Summary

Harvest4Knowledge is an Indigenous plant and traditional knowledge project taking place on the homeland of the Lekwungen people, now known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. The project set out to bring Indigenous plants and traditional knowledge into the minds and hearts of children and youth. Six schools in School District 61 (SD61) received grants to build Indigenous plant gardens, which includes planting Indigenous plants, restoring meadows and forest ecosystems and harvesting and making traditional medicines all in their schoolyard. Each Indigenous plant garden has interpretive signage in English and Lekwungen with QR codes that allow students to hear the spoken name of the plants in Lekwungen. Online curriculum is being developed to support teachers and their students to connect to the garden.



## Background

In 2016, SD61 Aboriginal Art and Cultural Facilitator Sarah Rhude created a medicine wheel and camas meadow at Victoria High School using Farm to School BC funding. With the success of this garden, Capital Region Animator Aaren Topley worked with Sarah to apply for and secure additional funding through the Horner Foundation. This allowed the Public Health Association of BC to hire Hereditary Chief Edward ‘Seenupin’ Thomas to support the development of the Lekwungen signage for each garden. Edward worked with Elder Elmer George of the Songhees Nation, who is the last fluent Lekwungen speaker, to translate his teachings into a hand written and keyboard accessible language. To document the language, Edward has been recording Elder Elmer George speaking and integrating the spoken word into Power Point presentations that allow learners to hear the language and see it written in Lekwungen. This provides an easy way to support Lekwungen children and youth to learn more about their own language.

## Thank You to Our Partners:

School District 61 and the Aboriginal Nations Education Division, Songhees and Esquimalt Nation, Horner Foundation, Parks Canada, LifeCycles Project Society, Habitat Acquisition Trust, and Saanich Native Plants.

## A Special Thank You To:

Sarah Rhude, Paola Bell, Aaren Topley, Kristen Miskelly, Hereditary Chief Edward Thomas, Elder Elmer George, Butch Dick, Elder Maryann Thomas, Cheryl Bryce, Diane Sam, Tracy Horner, Fiona Devereaux, Shereen Kukhabryson, Leah Seltzer, Paige Erickson-McGee, Wendy Tyrell, Sonya Mcrae, Emma Milliken, Rachel Trebilco, Geoff Orme, Richard Han.

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